



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LA PORTE COUNTY

555 Michigan Avenue, Suite 202

La Porte, IN 46350-3400

Phone: (219) 326-6808 ext. 2229

Richard Mrozinski,
President

Michael Gonder,
Vice President

Dr. Vidya Kora,
Member

REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

LA PORTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at the La Porte County Complex Meeting Room #3 at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Auditor Joie Winski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Auditor Winski asked Rich Mrozinski to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Diane Gonzales called the roll: Commissioner Gonder - Present; Commissioner Kora - Present; Commissioner Mrozinski - Present. Quorum present therefore meeting commenced.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Auditor Joie Winski

Nomination made by Commissioner Kora to elect Rich Mrozinski as Commission President and Mike Gonder as Vice President. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2017 MINUTES

Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the minutes from the December 20th meeting. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

CLAIMS

Auditor Winski read the claims with Payroll ending 12-29-2017- \$1,162,465.84 and Miscellaneous - \$619,255.94. Commissioner Kora motioned to approve the claims as read. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kora made a motion to appoint the following:

Insurance Agent of Record - Michiana Insurance - John Jones
County Financial Planner - Cender and Company - Carl Cender
County Attorney - Drayton, Biege, Sirugo & Elliott - Doug Biege
Confidential Executive Secretary - Diane Gonzales

Department Heads:

Animal Shelter Director - Jane Bernard
Community Corrections Director - Dick Buell
County Engineer - Jerry "Jay" Sullivan
County Highway Superintendent - Bob Young
County Planner - Mitch Bishop

Economic Development - Mike Seitz
EMA Director - Larry Butcher
EMS Director - Andrew McGuire
E-911 Acting Director - John Dudeck
Emergency Planning - Jeff Hamilton
Information Technology Director - Darlene Hale
Museum Curator - Susie Richter
Parks & Recreation Director - Jeremy Sobecki
Plan Commission - Annemarie Polan
Stationary Engineer - Rich Gramarossa
Veterans Service Officer - Joe Golec
Weights and Measures Director - Mike Quinn

Commissioner Gonder seconded the motion for appointments. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kora made a motion to appoint the following Boards and Commissions:

Board of Trustees Michigan City Public Library - John Pugh
Board of Trustees Westville Public Library - Allison Swanson
La Porte County Alcoholic Beverage Commission - Jon Nebelung
La Porte County Animal Control Advisory Board - Lisa Polazzi, Dr. Patrick Dorrah and Patricia Shively
La Porte County Board of Construction Review - John "Jack" Blake and James Pressel III
La Porte County Board of Health - Alexandra Laun and Dr. Annabella Juhasz
La Porte County Board of Zoning Appeals - Greg Szybala
La Porte County Community Corrections Advisory Board - Connie Gramarossa for the Council
La Porte County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Managers - Tim Anderson and Mike Seitz
La Porte County Drainage Board - Hugh Glasgow for District 3
La Porte County Park & Recreation Board - Amanda Nebelung
La Porte County Pioneer Cemetery Commission - Ken Baker
La Porte County Plan Commission - Rita Beaty Kelly
La Porte County Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals - Matt Bernacchi, Amy Blind and Hassan Dabagia
La Porte County Public Defender Board - Mike Drayton
La Porte County Redevelopment Commission - Jim Arnold, Joe Coar, Jeff Johnson, Dr. Kora, and Terry Larson
Commissioner Gonder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF PUBLICATION- LEGAL NOTICE - COMMISSION MEETINGS - AGENDA PUBLIC NOTICE

Commissioner Gonder motioned to accept the notices. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Koethe - Kingsford Heights Attorney and Brad Adamsky - Drainage Board Attorney - Requested permission to approach the Council for financial assistance with the Porter Ditch matter, a concrete structure that encased a water and sewer line, which would cost \$63,000. Currently only \$5,000 is available. President Mrozinski asked Attorney Biege for direction. Doug replied Kingsford Heights and the La Porte County Drainage Board are two legal entities. The town can remedy the situation with utilities and fee rates plus ability to bond. Drainage Board can assess the ditch - no money available due to money used up for the project. Until all other options are looked at he did not recommend the Commissioners to approve the request to approach the Council for funding. Commissioner Kora motioned for Council to demonstrate "in writing" no other funding mechanisms available for either governmental entity, the Town of Kingsford Heights and Drainage Board. Commissioner Gonder seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Alt - Husband of employee Tammy Alt. Tammy was employed in Superior Court 4 as a clerk. She passed away December 22nd. Steve requested from HR pay for her 60 unused sick days. County policy states 20 years before unused sick days can be paid out. Steve also requested from HR EAP - Employee Assistance Program - for her son. He stated HR responded she is no longer an employee of the county therefore her son was not entitled to assistance. Steve said the Michigan City Police Department, his employer, has agreed to pay for the counseling. Steve commented county policy should be looked at - Tammy did not quit or get fired. President Mrozinski stated they were not aware of the communication between Mr. Alt and Human Resources until now. Commissioner Kora responded with condolences, the issue will be looked into and he will personally get back to Steve on this matter.

Dennis Metheny - 6757 W. 450 N. Michigan City - Questioned why Public Comment was at the end of this agenda. Asked if it would be at the end in the future.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Kora wished everyone a Happy New Year. Commissioner Gonder stated to Steve Alt that the policy and/or matter will be reviewed. President Mrozinski announced WSBT had wrong information about the heat not working properly in the La Porte courthouse - was NOT closed for business as reported the prior day. Contract for the system is still under warranty and a representative was due to come out Wednesday or Thursday.

ADJOURN

President Mrozinski motioned to adjourn at 10:20 a.m. Commissioner Kora seconded. Motion carried.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA

DATE

1-17-18

ATTEST: _____

Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA